

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DPW-01 DRC-01 /103 W
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R 161744Z JUL 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7223

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 5301

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EDC, GW, PGOV

SUBJECT: ACHENBACH AFFAIR

1. DR. ERNEST WILHELM ACHENBACH, FDP, MEMBER OF GERMAN BUNDESTAG AND OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, HAS BECOME THE CENTER OF A CONTROVERSY HERE, AND SEVERAL HUNDRED OFFICIALS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION HAVE SIGNED A PETITION CALLING FOR HIS REMOVAL FROM THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. AT ISSUE IS HIS POSITION ON A DRAFT LAW IN THE BUNDESTAG WHICH WOULD PERMIT NAZI WAR CRIMINALS CONVICTED IN FRANCE IN ABSENTIA TO BE RETRIED IN WEST GERMANY. ACHENBACH IS QUOTED IN THE PRESS AS HAVING SAID ON WEST GERMAN RADIO THAT AS RAPPORTEUR OF THE BUNDESTAG FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HE WOULD EXAMINE THE DRAFT LEGISLATION CAREFULLY AND THAT WOULD "TAKE A LONG TIME, A VERY LONG TIME." THE PETITION ORGANIZERS CONTEND THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. OTHER PRESS REPORTS

INDICATE ACHENBACH HAS PROPOSED A GENERAL AMNESTY FOR WAR CRIMINALS.

2. EC COMMISSIONER RALF DAHRENDORF, ALSO A MEMBER OF THE FDP, ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IN BRUSSELS JULY 16 TO THE GERMAN PRESS AGENCY: "IT IS NOT MY WAY TO POSE AS A MORAL JUDGE OF OTHERS, AND I AM NOT IN THE POSITION TO ASSESS GUILT OR INNOCENCE IN THIS CASE, BUT AFTER MY CONVERSATIONS IN BRUSSELS AND STARSBOURG, I AM CERTAIN THAT DR. ACHENBACH WOULD RENDER A SERVICE TO THE CAUSE OF EUROPE AND TO THAT OF THE LIBERALS IF HE WERE TO DECIDE TO SPARE THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN FUTURE THE EMBARRASMENTS WHICH RESULT FROM HIS MEMBERSHIP THERE."GREENWALD

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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